

The Newberry Herald.

THREE DOLLARS A YEAR.

FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF USEFUL INTELLIGENCE.

[INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.]

VOL. IV.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 11, 1868.

NO 11.

THE HERALD

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING,
At Newberry, S. C.,
By THOS. F. & R. H. GREENE,
PRINTERS, 25 PER ANNUM, IN CURRENCY
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The Anti-Impeachment Meet- ing in New York.

SPEECH OF MAYOR HOFFMAN, ETC.

An anti-impeachment meeting was held in Cooper Institute, New York city, on Friday night last, as already briefly noticed in our telegraphic columns. The Herald says the Hall was well filled in every part, and that, although the announcement was brief, the meeting was the largest which has been held in that city for some time past. A number of prominent speakers addressed the audience, amongst whom was Mayor Hoffman, who said:

"He was not among the invited speakers. He came as a silent member; as one to make an earnest protest against a grievous wrong threatened in the capital of the country. He spoke, not as a partisan, but as an American citizen, and as the head of an American city, with one hundred thousand men and women, would cast their ballots in support of every word he would utter."

[Others.] It would be a shame if no voices went forth from this city when it is attempted to overthrow the Government under the name of reform. It would be a disgrace to this city did it not speak against this invasion against the Constitution. [Cheers.] Within a mile from this spot would be found the business places of men who have never read the explanatory letter of the President to the Senate. It ought to be known. This is a solemn time in the history of the country. He was not present as the advocate of Johnson. He (Johnson) did much he applauded, much for which he condemned. The President has always chosen his Cabinet without exception. Lincoln appointed his Cabinet; Johnson did not do so. Differences have arisen in the Cabinet, and he desires to remove a man at war with him. He requests him to resign. Stanton refused, which no man of honor would have done. [Cheers.] And the President removed him and designated a successor to fill his place at interim. This was only the exercise of the power belonging to him; and as a test question whether he could remove him or not. This was right—to test the constitutionality of an act—the fact. But Congress immediately votes to impeach him for high crime and misdemeanor. Johnson removed no Cabinet officer appointed by him, but one appointed by his predecessor. When he considered that upon so slight foundation so serious a difficulty was raised, he was incensed. Mr. Johnson did nothing to deserve impeachment up to this time. It is a wonder that the passions of that 22d of February could not have found a cooler vent than the impeachment of a man who had done no wrong. He would tell them there can be but one reason for impeachment; that is, that Mr. Johnson may be removed before the question of a next election comes before them. He would venture a prophecy that if this thing goes on, not as regards the members of the House of Representatives, but that members of the Senate, who are to sit as judges upon the President, one of whom represents the great commercial interests of New York City and State—one of its great capitalists—I say to him and to his associates that if they press impeachment to conviction he would venture to prophesy that

the assassins of one President and the impeachers of another will stand side by side on the pages of history with like odium. [Cheers.] He would warn Congress not to proceed in this matter. There will be no resistance by force; but the great force of any civilized age is the force of public opinion expressed as the public know how to express it. [Cheers.]

The following resolutions were enthusiastically adopted:

Resolved, That the present political crisis is fraught with great and peculiar danger to constitutional government and to republican institutions in the United States.

Resolved, That the chief, if not the only, safe-guard of freedom is Government under and by a written Constitution, which is the sole guarantee of the rights of the people and of the States, and which can alone insure the stability of republican institutions, upon which rests the permanent prosperity of this country; that, wisely and skillfully framed as was the Constitution which the fathers of the republic left us as the fruit of their bloody struggle and patient counsels, it is even less the preservation of this Constitution that demands our chiefest care than the absolute submission to the Constitution, whatever it may be, until it is changed by the will of the people in accordance with its own provisions.

Resolved, That being the organic law, in virtue of which only our political nationality and our Government exist, the Constitution is for the people and the Government of the United States, and once the foundation of all municipal law, and above all other human law, and is strictly binding upon all departments of the Government, Legislative, as well as Executive and Judicial; and that those who attack, defy, or disregard this primal law, openly or insidiously under the forms of legislation, commit a like wrong with those who sought like ends by force of arms; that it is the first duty of the President of the United States to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution by all lawful means against attacks from any quarter, even should they be made by the representatives of the people, who themselves cannot disregard it, or change it otherwise than in accordance with its own provisions, except by breaking down our only barrier against anarchy on one side and tyranny on the other.

Resolved, That the President, being the only Executive officer known to the Constitution, and the Secretaries of the several departments being, as the Supreme Court has decided, his subordinate ministerial officers, or, in the words of the Court, "his hands," and he, not they, being responsible to the people for their acts, he is, of right, as in practice he has always been, from the administration of Washington to the present day, the proper judge of their fitness to remain in such official connection with him; and that in the last words of that able statesman and true patriot, the late Governor Andrew, of Massachusetts, which he applied to Mr. Johnson, Congress ought to leave the President free to select his Cabinet, and to hold him responsible, as the country would do for its composition; and that being thus responsible for them, he has a direct and supreme personal interest in any measures which may seek to deprive him of his power to remove them when they no longer possess his confidence, and therefore, the first and best right to test the lawfulness and constitutionality of these measures.

Resolved, That the endeavor to class the efforts of a President to preserve to his office a power which has been transmitted to

him, with the assent of the people unimpaired, from the days of Washington, with such high crimes and misdemeanors as the framers of the Constitution coupled with treason and bribery, is a palpable absurdity and a monstrous perversion of the power conferred upon the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That the impeachment of a President of the United States should be the last resort for the protection of the republic from such disgrace or grievous wrong as honorable men of all parties would feel and would strive together to avert; and that the adoption of such a measure by a strict vote, because of the President's course in regard to legislation which touches his right in his own political household and is at variance with the Constitution as it has been interpreted from the time of Washington, Adams and Jefferson to the present day, and opposed to the views and the feeling of a large proportion, if not a majority of the people, is not impeachment as contemplated in the framing of the Constitution, but a mere device by which the dominant majority in any Congress, dividing itself into accuser and judge, may assume to decide as a court of last resort the constitutionality of its own acts, a proceeding which is at war with the fundamental principles of law, of reason and of honor, and one which must degrade what should be a solemn vindication of the dignity and welfare of the nation, into an instrument of party tactics and of party revenge.

Resolved, That we can now rely upon the dignity and moderation of the Senate and the personal and judicial integrity of the individual Senators to save the country from the great wrong with which it is threatened, and from the enormous evils which would inevitably ensue.

Resolved, That this meeting protests against the present impeachment as scandalous, wrongful and unconstitutional in spirit; but it none the less deprecated the resort to violent measures or menaces in support of the right, and trusts that the American people will look with calmness even upon the vindictive impeachment and possible displacement of the President of the United States, and will rely only upon the peaceful means of discussion and the ballot box for the vindication of the truth and the restoration of wisdom to the councils of the nation.

CROWD.—An exchange, referring to the fact of a doctor in Heidelberg and two of his assistants having died of group in consequence of sucking the blood flowing during a successful operation of tracheotomy, stated that the disease is always curable by a very simple remedy, even when the patient is on the verge of suffocating. This consists, first, in applying water to the throat by means of a sponge or soft cloth, so hot as to be very painful to the hand of the operator, instant relief being usually afforded. After this has been continued for fifteen or twenty minutes, a poultice of linseed meal, rolled up in a cloth, is to be applied while very hot, and left on for some time. The remedies are to be repeated should the attack return; but the writer states after a long experience he has never known it to fail.

Evening.—The afternoon session was spent in discussing the 4th section of the educational report without any action.

The sun is always shining, the flowers are always blooming, the birds are always singing, somewhere in this wicked world.

Resolved, That the endeavor to class the efforts of a President to preserve to his office a power which has been transmitted to

Daniel Webster and Jennie Lind.

Jennie Lind gave a concert at Washington during the session of Congress, and as a mark of her respect, and with a view to the eclat, sent polite invitation to the President, Mr. Fillmore, the members of the Cabinet, M. Clay, and many other distinguished members of both houses of Congress. It happened that on that day several members of the Cabinet and Senate were dining with Mr. Bodisco, the Russian Minister. His good dinner and choice wines had kept the party so late that the concert was nearly over when Webster, Clay, Crittenden, and others came in. Whether from the hurry in which they came, from the heat of the room, their faces were a little flushed and they looked somewhat flurried.

After the applause with which these gentlemen were received had subsided and silence once more restored, the second part of the concert was opened by Jennie Lind with "Hail Columbia."

This took place during the height of the debate and excitement on the slavery question, and the compromise resolutions of Mr. Clay; and this patriotic air, as a part of the programme, was considered peculiarly appropriate at a concert where the head of the Government and a large number of both branches of the legislative department were present. At the close of the first verse Webster's patriotism boiled over; he could sit no longer; and rising like an Olympian Jove, he added his deep, sonorous bass voice to the chorus; and I venture to say never in the whole course of her career did the sweet heart receive one-half of the applause as that with which her song and Webster's chorus were greeted.

Mrs. Webster, who sat immediately behind him, kept tugging at his coat-tail to make him sit down or stop singing, but it was no earthly use—and at the close of each verse Webster joined in, and it was hard to say whether Jennie Lind, Webster, or the audience were the most delighted. I have seen Rubini, Labloche, and the two Grisis on the stage at one time, but such a happy conjunction in the national air of "Hail Columbia," as Jennie Lind's tenor and Daniel Webster's bass we shall never see or hear again.

At the close of the air, Mr. Webster rose with his hat in his hand and made her such a bow as Chesterfield would have deemed a fortune for his son, and which eclipsed D'Orsay's best. Jennie Lind, blushing at the distinguished honor, courtesied to the floor the audience applauded to the very echo; Webster, determined not to be outdone in politeness, bowed again. Miss Lind recourtesied, the house reapplauded and this was repeated nine times, or "I'm a villain else."

I have seen Niagara, and Tagliani, Mars and Malibran; I have walked through the ruins at Pæstum and the Colosseum by moonlight, crossed the Menia Bridge and the Thames Tunnel, but never while memory lasts will this scene fade away.

Bankruptcy.

As a matter of interest to many of our readers, we give some points in connection with the operations of the Bankrupt Law recently passed by Congress, which will put the matter more clearly before them.

And first, in regard to the amount and character of property exempted and secured to the debtor. This is embraced in the following:

"The necessary household and kitchen furniture and such other articles and necessities of such bankrupt as the said assignee shall designate and set apart, having reference in the amount to the

family condition, and circumstances of the bankrupt, but altogether not to exceed in value in any case, the sum of five hundred dollars;

"And also the wearing apparel of such bankrupt, and that of his wife and children;

"And the uniform, arms and equipments of any person who is or has been a soldier in the militia or in the service of the United States;

"And such other property as now is, or hereafter shall be exempt from attachment or seizure, or levy on execution by the laws of the United States;

"And such other property not included in the foregoing exceptions as is exempt from levy and sale upon execution or other process, or order of any court, by the laws of the State in which the bankrupt has his domicile at the time of the commencement of the proceedings in bankruptcy, to an amount not exceeding that allowed by such State exemption laws in force in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four."

"And in all proceedings in bankruptcy commenced after one year from the time this act shall go into operation, no discharge shall be granted to a debtor whose assets do not pay fifty per centum of the claims against his estate, unless the assets in writing of a majority in number and value of his creditors who have proved their claims is filed in the case at or before the time of application for discharge."

The 50th and last section of the law reads:

"That this act shall commence and take effect as to the appointment of the officers created hereby, and the promulgation of rules and general orders, from and after the date of its approval: provided, that no petition or other proceedings under this act shall be filed, received, or commenced before the first day of June, Anno Domini eighteen hundred and sixty-seven."

The Convention.

February 21.—The meeting was opened with prayer by Runion. Leslie, burning with wrath, rose to a question of privilege, and sent to the clerk The Mercury's photograph of himself. The sketch was read by the clerk, very much to the edification of the assembly and the piling up of the wrath of Leslie. When the reading was finished, the burning indignation of the irate Charles broke forth in lava streams of eloquence, which ought to have caused every copy of the off-lying newspaper, the object of his wrath, that came within its reach to curl to cinders. It only, however, caused a few upper lips to curl with irrepressible smiles. He went into a long explanation to show what a persecuted individual he was, and how cunning The Mercury was, to slander without offending the law.

The report of the Committee on the executive Department of the Constitution was then taken up, and section 1 passed to its third reading, the word "one" being changed to "two."

Section 8 in relation to the division of Charleston and Pickens District was passed to its third reading. Ayes 79, nays 23, absent 19.

February 22.—Nothing worth noting. 23d Sunday, recess.

February 24.—The meeting was opened with prayer by our old acquaintance "Cry aloud and spare not!" alias W. E. Johnson, of Sumter.

Randolph, from the Committee on Miscellaneous Provisions of the Constitution, reported the following ordinance, which was made the special order for Saturday, next.

Whereas, During the late war between the two sections of this country, resulting disastrously to the Southern people, by which all classes have suffered beyond repair; therefore

Be it ordained, That equity and justice demand for the minor children of this State, in all classes where real estate was transferred either at public sale or otherwise, for Confederate sureties or currency, during the existence of the late rebellion, the said transfer, no matter by whom made, shall be absolutely null and void wherever based upon such said sureties, and the original owners and guardians may enter upon and take possession of such real estate in behalf of said minor children, unless the same is paid for in the currency of the United States.

McGregor Mackey offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee of nine to arrange for the submission of the constitution to the people and for the election of State officers. Adopted.

Parker from the Committee on Finance offered the following substitute for the nineteenth section on Finance and Taxation, which was passed to its second reading, and ordered to be printed.

Section 19.—Suitable laws shall be passed by the Legislature for the safe keeping, transfer and disbursement of the State, County and School fund; and all officers and other persons charged with the same, shall keep an accurate entry of each sum received, and of each payment and transfer; and shall give such security for the faithful discharge of such duties as the Legislature may provide. And it shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass laws making embezzlements of such funds a felony, punishable by a fine and imprisonment proportioned to the amount of deficiency or embezzlement; and the party convicted of such felony shall be disqualified forever from holding any office of honor or emolument in this State; Provided, however, that the Legislature, by a two-thirds vote, may remove the disability upon payment in full of the principal and interest of the sum embezzled.

The assembly then went into a discussion of the section relating to the qualifications of Governor, which lasted until adjournment, without result. The principal fight was on the length of residence in the State, which was changed from four years to two years.

February 25.—The meeting was opened with prayer by E. J. Snodder.

McGregor Mackey introduced a resolution providing that, hereafter, a morning session be held from 10 A. M. to 2 P. M., and an evening session from 7 P. M. to 10 P. M. Referred to the Committee on Rules and Regulations.

The unfinished business was taken up. Whittemore offered the following substitute for the third section of the report of the Committee on the executive part of the Constitution, which was adopted—ayes 39; nays 7; absent 21.

No person shall be eligible to the office of Governor who denies the existence of the Supreme Being, or who at the time of such election has not attained the age of thirty years, and who, except at the first election under this constitution, shall not have been a citizen of the United States, a citizen resident of this State, two years next preceding the election. No person, while Governor, shall hold any other office or commission, except in the military, under this State, or any other power at one and the same time.

At this point of the proceedings Major General R. S. Canby, Commanding the Second Military District, entered the Chamber, and of course, a great sensation was created among the slaves by the appearance of their royal master. They immediately voted themselves five minutes' recess.

At the end of the recess business was resumed, and sections 4 to 14 inclusive were passed to a third reading with little or no alteration.

N. G. Parker moved as an addition to section 15 that the first Legislature elect an Adjutant and Inspector-General to hold office for the same term as the Governor, which was adopted, and the section so amended was passed to its third reading.

Sections 16 to 19 inclusive were passed to a third reading.

Duncan offered an amendment to section 20 requiring the oath of office to be taken, which was adopted, and the section so amended was passed to its third reading.

Section 21 was passed to its third reading.

Bowen offered a substitute for section 22, which was adopted, providing for a veto by the governor, and the overruling of the veto by a vote of two-thirds of each branch of the Legislature; also requiring the governor to send in his objections in three days, unless an adjournment prevented, and then within two days after the commencement of the next session.

Section 7 of the report of the Committee on the Judiciary, was then taken up, and the word "county" substituted for "district."

February 26.—Brother Whittemore prayed. An amusing discussion relative to the double daily session took up the morning of this day, which closed with a resolution, which was adopted, that the assembly have the two sessions.

Swails from Committee on Rules and Regulations, reported unfavorably on a resolution that delegates should draw no pay after March 5th.

Afternoon.—Bowen, from the Judiciary Committee, recommended the following resolution, which was passed:

That the General Commanding the Military District be requested to issue an order applicable to the State of South Carolina, authorizing any authority, solicitor or counselor, a limited to practice in the Courts of the United States, or in any Court of Record in any State, and resident in this State, to appear and practice in all the courts of this State, and that any male person twenty-one years of age, who is a citizen of the State and who satisfies the Court of Common Pleas and general sessions, or District Court of this State, that he possesses the requisite learning, may be licensed to practice in all of the courts of this State upon his taking the usual oath.

George Washington Solomon Dill, of fered three resolutions, one making all male persons twenty-one years of age qualified voters, another creating all State offices immediately on the ratification of the constitution, and the third providing that delegates receive pay from the day they left home until their return, allowing the same time for return that it took them to come—all referred to appropriate committees.

The first section of the report of the Judiciary Committee, was passed to its third reading, and during the discussion of the second, the hour of adjournment arrived.

February 27.—Runion prayed, and Dunoon, from the special com-

mittee of eight on dividing the State into Congressional districts, reported the following ordinance:

That the State shall be divided into four Congressional Districts, as follows: First district; Lancaster, Chesterfield, Marlborough, Darlington, Marion, Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg, Sumter, Clarendon, and Kershaw. Second district; Charleston, Colleton, Beaufort and Barnwell. Third district; Orangeburg, Lexington, Richland, Newberry, Edgefield, Abbeville and Anderson; and the fourth district; Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Laurens, Spartanburg, Union, York, Chester and Fairfield.

Section 2. That until the next appointment by Congress, each of the said districts shall elect one member to represent this State in Congress. After such new appointment by Congress, the Legislature shall divide the State into as many Congressional Districts as we are entitled to members in the House of Representatives.

Section 3. At the first election under this constitution, two Representatives shall be elected at large on the State ticket, to represent the overplus of population. Should they obtain seats, they shall continue to be so elected until the new appointment after the census of 1870.

February 28.—Morning.—Brockenton prayed and resolutions were offered by W. J. McKinley and adopted requiring members who obtained leave of absence to report to the assembly on their return, and to make reasonable excuse for any extension of absence under penalty of losing their per diem during unauthorized absence. Also prohibiting leave of absence to more than eight members at one time except in sickness. Adjourned.

Afternoon.—The pay and mileage were forked over to the penitents, and also to those who were not penitents, flat pocket books assumed a more comfortable shape, and full pocket books became full of the bills of the State which were thrust into the pockets of coats, vests and trousers, or tied up in the corners of red Cotton handkerchiefs.

February 29.—Morning.—Franklin prayed, and the following substitute for the 19th section was offered by Rutland:

Section 19. The Judges of the Court of Common Pleas shall hereafter be invested with all the powers of Chancellors to hear and determine Equity causes, and the rules and practice which now govern Courts of Equity in their proceedings shall continue till changed by law. There shall be at least two annual sessions of the Court of Equity in each Judicial District in the State, to be held at such times and places as may be prescribed by law. It shall be the duty of the Judges in Equity to file their decisions within ninety days from the day of the hearing of the causes respectively. There shall be one Commissioner in Equity for each judicial district in the State, to be elected by the people of such district, whose term of office shall be two years, and whose fees and duties shall continue the same as at the present time till changed by law.

Afternoon.—George Washington Solomon Dill paid his compliments to the Charleston Mercury for certain allusions to his personal character which were too true to be agreeable.

Moses moved a suspension of the rules to prevent Dill from wasting the time of the assembly, but the motion was lost.

March 2.—Another prayer by Runion. Holmes, from a special committee, submitted a favorable report on a scheme for robbing Peter to pay Paul. (Mercury) entitled an "ordinance to create a board of land commissioners," said board to have authority under regulations provided by law, to purchase at public sales, or otherwise, improved and unimproved real estate within this State, to be sold to actual settlers, purchaser to pay interest annually upon the amount remaining unpaid, and all taxes imposed thereon by the State or United States, and every year after the third to pay such proportion of the principal as shall be required by the General Assembly.

Afternoon.—Runion offered a resolution to adjourn sine die, on the 12th which was lost.

Jenks' resolution praying Congress that the import duty on rice may be retained, was adopted.

Langley introduced a 20th section providing that no debt incurred by the State in support of a rebellion should ever be paid, which